6. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State/UT Governments aimed at improving the nutritional status of children below 6 years of age and expectant/lactating women, 9.26 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated during 2009-10.

7. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls is another programme implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State Governments for improving the status of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-19 years. During current year, 53,371 tons of food grains under the scheme have been allocated to States/UTs.

8. Under the Scheme for Welfare Institutions, Government makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs for meeting requirements of food grains of welfare institutions. During current year, 1.37 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to various States/UTs under the scheme.

9. Under the Scheme for SC/ST/OBC Hostels, Government makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs for meeting requirements of food grains of SC/ST/OBC Hostels. During current year, 1.50 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to various States/UTs under the scheme.

Storage capacity of FCI godowns

183. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrain storage capacity in metric tonnes, of FCI in the country, Statewise;

(b) the details of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns in the country, Statewise;

(c) whether FCI godowns have space to store fresh stocks that are to come very soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As on 31.10.2009, FCI is having a total storage capacity of 278.59 lac MT (Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP). The total quantity of foodgrains stored by FCI is 214.46 lac MT as on 31.10.2009. Details showing State-wise storage capacity and stocks held by FCI as on 31.10.2009 are given in the enclosed Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 179 (Part (b)]

(c) and (d) No Sir. If wheat procurement in RMS 2010-11 follows the trend of procurement in RMS 2009-10, the present storage capacity may not be adequate to store wheat stocks. As on 31.10.2009, approximately 64.13 lac MT space is available with FCI to store fresh stocks.

Deliberation on National Food Security Act

184. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently convened a conference of State Food and Civil Supplies Ministers at New Delhi to discuss drought as well as the proposed National Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the implementation of the National Food Security Act has been badly delayed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and further strategies envisaged for the implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Food, Civil Supplies and Sugar Ministers was held in New Delhi on 19.08.2009 to discuss various issues related to impact of deficient rainfall on kharif production, procurement of foodgrains for central pool, functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the price of sugar and the proposed National Food Security Act. State Governments were requested to take various measures such as reducing taxes on foodgrains procured, effectively checking diversion and leakages of subsidized foodgrains under TPDS, continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists to eliminate bogus ration cards, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act,1955 and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, etc. In regard to the National Food Security Act, it was explained that joint efforts of the Central and State Governments through an agreed strategy would be required and suggestions in this regard of the State/Union Territory Governments would be considered while formulating the new law.

(c) and (d) At present Government is examining various aspects of the proposed National Food Security Act.

Measures to check prices of Foodgrains

185. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government since the end of the last Budget Session to keep prices of foodgrains, sugar, pulses, etc. under control; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Government has already taken a number of steps to control the price rise and to reduce the impact of price rise on consumers such as augmenting domestic supplies of foodgrains through imports at zero/reduced rates of duty and ban on exports. Government measures to keep prices of foodgrains sugar, pulses etc. under control are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) The various steps taken by Government has had a moderating influence on prices of essential commodities.

Statement

Government measures

1. **Fiscal Measures**

(i) Reduced import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize;

(ii) Reduced import duties on refined & hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils to 7.5%;

(iii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L upto 1.8.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.4.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.3.2010.

(iv) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tonnes by 1.8.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.4.2009). This is extended upto 30.11.2009. This is also extended to private sector.

(v) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.

2. **Administrative Measures**

(vi) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except kabul chana).

(vii) Enabled imposition of stock limit orders by State Governments in the case of paddy, rice; pulses, sugar, edible oils and edible oilseeds upto 30.9.2010. In order to discourage non-household sector consumers from stockpiling sugar and to ensure adequate availability of sugar in the open market for actual consumers, the Central Government has issued a notification dated 22.08.2009 imposing stockholding limit on bulk consumers.

(viii) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at $445 per tonne for October 2009) and basmati rice ($900 PMT);

(ix) Distribution of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy of Rs.15/kg.